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Armstrong Faculty Senate Minutes

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September 25, 2017 Armstrong State University Faculty Senate Minutes

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Armstrong State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of September 25, 2017
Student Union, Ballroom A, 3:00 p.m.

- I. Pre-Senate Working Session (3:00–3:30 p.m.)
- II. Call to Order by Senate President David Bringman at 3:30pm (Appendix A)
- III. Senate Action
 - A. Approval of Minutes from [August 28, 2017](#) Faculty Senate Meeting (Approved 29-0)
 - B. Brief Remarks from Dr. Jennifer Frum, University President
Dr. Frum is not here today.
 - C. Brief Remarks from Dr. Chris Curtis, Interim Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs
Let me start by expressing regrets from President Frum. The change in schedule resulted in a conflict with her ability to attend today. Regarding the storm closure, I want to talk about changes in the academic calendar. We will use the Monday and Tuesday to make up the Friday classes we missed. We are converting the final exam week to regular class time. We needed to comply with SAACS. I realize this may cause problems. Dr. Frum did not want to add exam time after the additional week. We did ask faculty to prepare to do remote teaching for a couple of weeks. That was when it was a category 3 hurricane. We will do a better job with the next hurricane. We think the distance learning option should become part of the fall academic planning given that we are in a coastal location. One of the things we will be asking is how to best do this. There are external forces, such as contingencies related to financial aid that require students to complete coursework by a certain time. Let me talk about consolidation. It was put on hold for a couple of weeks because of the storm closure. Hiring has been suspended going into the storm and all of last week. There was concern about inequity across campuses in representation. We are hoping that will get re-started this week so that we can finish hiring. If you haven't heard anything by early next week, check in with me. The curriculum process also was delayed, but our deadlines have not changed. The next few weeks will be curriculum intense. There have been conflicting messages, in part coming out of the GSU Registrar's office, about the process. There will be a clear message out from the Dean's offices later this week. The faculty on both campuses need time to review the curriculum in their areas of expertise.
Question: With the recommendation to prepare for 2 weeks of distance learning each fall, is it like we should schedule the last two weeks of material online, or what range of material are we preparing to deliver online?
Response: This time, we realized we would likely need to close campus over Labor Day weekend. When we are out for these things, it is very hard to get things started again if there is a loss of power. We need to recognize that these storms really impact our classes, so planning for two weeks may not be the best solution, but it is a start. If we had a serious hurricane, we would really need to think about how to

deliver instruction. Online is an idea, but requires power and internet access for students. This time, students who evacuated lost power.

Question: Will we get any push back from students who receive a portion of a course delivery online if that's not what they signed up for?

Answer: Yes, that could happen. That is another reason we should plan for this possibility and include it in our syllabi. We're never going to get this perfect, but we should be flexible and prepared as best we can. I think we did a better job this year with getting people out. Creating an institutional mechanism is important moving forward.

Comment: I'm pleased to hear you say flexibility is key. I'm concerned about a standardized expectation.

Response: We can have standardized that there is a process or plan that is designed, while courses will still be different and different plans for storm related closures. What is a reasonable expectation for faculty? How do we make sure that everyone knows they should plan – for example, new faculty coming in? We should get faculty development involved. Maybe faculty who aren't familiar with using D2L can get trained in it.

Question: Can we designate certain days as weather make-up days so that students can plan for that possibility in advance?

Response: We have talked with GSU about this.

Question: In light of the student who was shot at GA Tech, have there been discussions locally about use of force and non-lethal techniques.

Response: We have talked in President's Cabinet. We expect to hear more from USG. Our officers carry non-lethal techniques. We are talking a lot about de-escalation training. We have talked about our Counseling capacity and is that going to be sufficient, moving forward.

Question: Lapsed salary. There are murmurings across campus that that money will be swept under the rug in Atlanta.

Response: Lapsed money – consolidation savings – will be reallocated into other areas. The most obvious for us is we will need to hire 12 new advisors. That's one thing that's been targeted. Right now, we are still in the process of identifying what that money is. As we go forward, we want to have those conversations.

Question: What about the money from this year?

Response: That goes into the consolidation reallocation. Some of those upper admin lines can go into new advisors. What we've done this year from lapsed salary money from this year is to try to make equipment purchases – end of year funds.

Question: In new hires, or in merging departments, both of which may cause salary inversions, where are we with creating more equitable salaries?

Response: There hasn't been much discussion. I've asked that we hold off in tenure-track faculty hires while we are hiring staff. We are discussing if we have the flexibility in the budget to make salary adjustments. We are having those discussions in collaboration with GSU.

Question: All the faculty and staff will be having a payroll deduction for parking. How do we explain that to faculty and staff why they should pay for parking when there has not been a parking issue on this campus.

Response: That's the first I've heard of this. We are talking about tuition and fees right now. I'll ask our interim vice-president for Business and Finance.

Comment: SGA would like to know what students will be paying for parking at this campus.

Question: Any idea when a salary study would take place?

Response: I would guess not before the end of the year. There are steps we have to hit to make sure this consolidation gets done. That does not mean a salary study isn't a priority.

Question: None of us have seen anything happening with curriculum. What committees are working on this?

Response: My understanding is that the college curriculum committees have been formed.

D. Old Business

1. Recurrent Updates: The JLT summary is attached. Hiring was frozen, as Dr. Curtis mentioned, so we have no Faculty and Staff Vacancy Reports.

- i. Joint Leadership Team Summary (Appendix A)
 - ii. Faculty and Staff Vacancy Reports (None)

2. Other Old Business

- i. Consolidation Updates and Reports

a. CIC Update: CIC is meeting Thursday.

b. Faculty Governance OWG Update: We will be combining our constitution and bylaws. We will also be deciding on committees. We may be delegating discussions about committees and their bylaws to the current senate committees.

c. Other OWG Updates: None

3. Old Business from the Floor: None

E. New Business

1. Policies and Procedures related to Unexpected Campus Closures: I believe Dr. Curtis has discussed this. It wouldn't be a bad idea to have a more solid protocol and to get faculty involved in any committee forming those recommendations.

Comment: I hope that future communications could be more supportive of faculty. It felt this past time like there were mixed messages – both that it was most important to take care of ourselves and families, and that we should be focusing on plans for student instruction.

2. Student Ratings of Instruction: GSU has a paper-based rating system and we use SmartEvals. We need to come up with a unified plan. Some faculty at GSU want to change how they do this. Some faculty here do as well. Faculty need to work together to decide on a system and instrument. It's been requested that faculty welfare reps from both campuses work on this.
- Question: Did we finally get the issue resolved from SmartEvals with adding student signatures to comments?
- Response: Student enter their name, but names are listed in the results without linkage to specific comments. So, no, it doesn't appear to be working as promised.
- Comment: I prefer paper evaluations because there are fewer people/steps in between me and the students. With SmartEvals, we have to rely on them to design the survey and make these changes.
- Question: Do you find any aspect of it useful?
- Response: Yes, there are some valuable tools.
- Comment: It mainly seems to be important that faculty get involved in this committee so that we have a voice in how faculty evaluation is done. Otherwise, an administrator might just make the decision during consolidation.

3. Committee Membership and Reports

- i. University Curriculum Committee: No report.
- ii. Governance Committee
 - a. Approval of Members (Approved 34-0)
- iii. Academic Standards: No report.
- iv. Education Technology: No report.
- v. Faculty Welfare: No report.
- vi. Planning, Budget, and Facilities: Have not met.
- vii. Student Success : Becky daCruz met with a GSU cohort. We will have a large WebX meeting. One decision that was made was to remove the academic intervention charge and move it to another committee. We expect to be done with the remaining charges by mid October.

4. New Business from the Floor: There was supposed to be a going away event for Deidra Dennie, but it was cancelled due to the storm. She has, in my opinion, been a valuable person on this campus. We had conversations on this campus that were valuable and impactful and I never would have

expected to have had before. My hope is that we have similar initiatives and focus on the new GSU campus.

F. Senate Information and Announcements: None

1. Send Committee Meeting Dates and Minutes to faculty.senate@armstrong.edu
2. Send Changes in Committee Membership, Chairs and Senate Liaisons to governance.senate@armstrong.edu and faculty.senate@armstrong.edu
3. Announcements (from the floor): None

IV. Adjournment at 4:15pm.

V. Minutes completed by:

Wendy Wolfe

Faculty Senate Secretary Fall, 2017

Appendices

A. Attendance Sheet

Appendix A

Faculty Senators and Alternates for Fall, 2017 (Senate Meeting 9/25/2017)

Department	College	# of Seats	Senator(s)		Alternate(s)	
Adolescent and Adult Education	COE	2	Patricia Holt	x	Anthony Parish	
			Greg Wimer	x	Rebecca Wells	
Art, Music and Theatre	CLA	3	Rachel Green	x	Mia Merlin	x
			Emily Grundstad-Hall	x	Pamela Sears	
			Benjamin Warsaw			
Biology	CST	4	Jennifer Broft Bailey		Sara Gremillion	
			Brian Rooney	x	Michele Guidone	
			Aaron Schrey	x	Michael Cotrone	
			Jennifer Zettler	x	Jay Hodgson	
Chemistry and Physics	CST	3	Brandon Quillian	x	Catherine MacGowan	
			Donna Mullenax	x	Lea Padgett	
			Clifford Padgett	x	Will Lynch	
Childhood and Exceptional Student Education	COE	2	Linda Ann McCall		Jackie Kim	
			Robert Loyd	x	John Hobe	
Computer Science & Information Tech	CST	1	Hongjun Su		Frank Katz	
Criminal Justice, Social and Political Science	CLA	2	Dennis Murphy	X	Michael Donahue	
			Kevin Jennings		Laura Seifert	
Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences	CHP	2	Shaunell McGee	x	Rhonda Bevis	
			Pam Cartright		Christy Moore	
Economics	CLA	1	Maliece Whatley	x	Yassi Saadatmand	
Engineering	CST	1	Wayne Johnson	x	Priya Goeser	
Health Sciences	CHP	2	Dziyana Nazaruk	x	Joey Crosby	
			TimMarie Williams		Rod McAdams	x
History	CLA	2	James Todesca		Allison Belzer	
			Michael Benjamin	x		
Languages, Literature and Philosophy	CLA	5	Jack Simmons	x	Will Belford	
			Carol Andrews	x		
			Jane Rago	x	Annie Mendenhall	
			Christy Mroczek	x	Julie Swanstrom	
			Carol Jamison	x	Rob Terry	
Library	CLA	1	Aimee Reist	x	Ann Fuller	
Mathematics	CST	3	Tricia Brown	x	Sean Eastman	
			Sungskon Chang	x	Duc Huynh	
			Kim Swanson	x	Greg Knofczynski	
Nursing	CHP	3	Sherry Warnock		Carole Massey	
			Gina Crabb	x	Luz Quirimit	
			Katrina Embrey	x	Jill Beckworth	x
Psychology	CST	1	Wendy Wolfe	x	Nancy McCarley	
Rehabilitation Sciences	CHP	2	David Bringman	x	AndiBeth Mincer	
			Jan Bradshaw	x	April Garrity	